



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

BYS Minutes 10/15/2008

Minutes of the Board of Youth Services October 15, 2008

Presentation by the staff of the Arlington Youth Consultation Services (AYCC) outlining history of the organization, roles in the community and services offered. Inservice ended with experiential activity involving AYCC and BYS staff.

Meeting called to order at 7:45

Present: Carlene Newell, Jeannette Mills, Mary DeCoursey, Leon Cantor, Lori Talanian, Cindy Sheridan, Lynn Horgan, Kevin Flood, Maryanne Andrew, Joan Axelrod Lehigh.

Absent: Joan Robbio, Donna Dolan, Elizabeth Oppedisano and Robert Bongiorno.

Minutes from September 30, 2008 were sent to all members via email, reviewed prior to meeting and approved as written. Committee and Subcommittee Reports are as followed:

AYCC (Leon): AYCC budget shifts discussed and need for subcommittee formation. Leon responded to questions related to AYCC budget, school budget and town appropriated funds. Board members inquired about AYCC policies and voting process. Joan and Lynn expressed interest in joining the subcommittee.

Needs Assessment Subcommittee: (Members Maryanne Andrew, Mary DeCoursey, Kevin Flood, Lynn Horgan, Joan Axelrod Lehigh, Carlene Newell) Members summarized the outcome of the first meeting. Lynn reported on the goal of the committee and proposed plans. The committee intends to formulate a questionnaire and invite individuals/groups within the community to participate in focus groups. The responses from the various arenas within the town will help the subcommittee identify the current needs of the youth in the town and future plans for Board of Youth Service programming. Leon suggested we consider putting a survey out. Joan mentioned that survey monkey is an option to consider. Cindy offered insight on the questionable benefit of surveys based on past efforts of others.

Arlington Health and Safety Coalition (Jeannette): The Coalition had its first meeting. Jeannette reported that the earmarks have been affected due to state funding cuts. The federal grant is safe and will fund the Executive Director's position and Diversion Coordinator. The Arlington High School will be having a Health and Safety Awareness Day on 10/22/08, all board members are invited to attend.

Parent Forums (Carlene): The Parent Forums brochure for 08-09 went to print today. Carlene summarized the various topics that will be offered and reminded the group that the Coalition is scheduled for 3/19/09.

First Step (Lynn): Lynn updated on the status of First Step support group per meeting with Elaine Shea and Mary Deyst. The group facilitators plan to increase public awareness and update resources for members.

Diversion Program (Cindy): At the last meeting, community based diversion programming was discussed. Cindy stated that she feels this model is the way to go. At the next meeting on 11/1/08, the court based model of diversion will be focus. They are working with the Arlington Police Department Chief to monitor the program's sustainability with the recent earmark cuts. Leon mention that a staff person is needed to link the identified students in the Diversion Program with AYCC services. Cindy commented on the Community Based Justice Program and questioned its place with respect to budget cuts. Leon clarified the way in which certain programs are funded under CDBG federal funding. Some of the programs that are supported under this umbrella include qualifying AYCC clients, Thompson community outreach, Youth Watch, Operation Success and Jobs, Jobs, Jobs.

New Business: Carlene presented an article and offered ideas of alternate ways to get information out to the public. Discussion ensued identifying ways to maximize the Town calendar in a way that the public could be linked to local services. Joan Roman is actively updating the town website and would be contact person.

Leon requested sponsorship of \$50.00 for the Martin Luther King Observance Day on January 19, 2009. Request unanimously approved by the board.

Jeannette made a motion to adjourn at 8:55. Carlene seconded the motion.